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LETTER DATED 15 FEBRUARY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 13 February 1993 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, conveying Iraq's protest and remonstrance against working procedures in the Sanctions Committee, as revealed at its meeting held on 28 January 1993.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 13 February 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

Once again I find myself obliged to register Iraq's protest and remonstrance against working procedures in the Sanctions Committee. The Committee's 86th meeting, held on 28 January 1993, revealed a transparent insistence on continuing to inflict damage on the Iraqi people and deprive it of the most elementary requirements for its daily life and subsistence.

In my previous letters, most recently that of 31 December 1992, I stated that the functioning of the Committee was being hampered by the fact that most of the requests submitted to it were rejected by the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom although such requests were made in connection with the basic requirements of daily life for the Iraqi people. The instances I cite below are flagrant examples of the attitudes taken by the United States and the United Kingdom in rejecting such requests. They are as follows:

(a) A request to supply 29 cases of knitting-machine needles, submitted by Mohammed Mouhtaseb and Sons, Jordan;

(b) A request to supply textiles for the manufacture of children's and women's clothing, submitted by the Beesan textile company and the Lulua factory, Jordan;

(c) A request to supply textiles used to make the women's aba'ah garment, submitted by the Saro company, Jordan;

(d) A request to supply wooden sheets for use in schools and hospitals, submitted by Al-Kamal Industries;

(e) A request to supply electrical materials, submitted by the Atlas company.

Despite protest by the representatives of Brazil, Cape Verde, China, Djibouti, Morocco, New Zealand and Spain and their interventions with regard to these requests, the representatives of the United States of America and the United Kingdom insisted on their position although similar requests had been approved at past meetings, such as that relating to children's and women's clothing. The positions adopted by the United States and the United Kingdom have been based on flimsy arguments and claims that such requests contribute to building up Iraqi industrial capacity.

Regrettably, the representative of Japan associated himself with these attitudes when he joined the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom in objecting to the request submitted by Turkish companies to supply Iraq with 10,000 kitchen aspirators.

We should like to state that, in its decisions, the Sanctions Committee has also failed to adhere to the letter and spirit of the Security Council resolutions relating to Iraq. Proof to that effect is that paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) permits the supply to Iraq of materials and supplies for essential civilian needs as identified in the report of the Secretary-General dated 20 March 1991 (S/22366). Thus paragraph 35 of that report, which concerns energy, indicates the need for units and spare parts to enable Iraq to meet its own humanitarian needs as soon as possible.

The Iraqi people has stated its desire to turn over a new page in dealings with the new United States Administration, and the highest leadership in Iraq has given that desire expression. We therefore hope that that Administration will respond to the efforts being made by my country and that this will reflect positively on the meetings of the Sanctions Committee and of the other Security Council committees. Maintenance of the approach adopted by the previous United States Administration will not serve the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq